

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL BICYCLE TASK FORCE AND
PEDESTRIAN WORKING GROUP

Tuesday, March 21, 2000
MAG Office Building, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 North First Avenue, Phoenix

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Patrick McDermott, Chandler, Chair, Regional Bicycle Task Force	*Mike Cartsonis, Litchfield Park Reed Kempton, Maricopa County
*Cynthia Seelhammer, Queen Creek, Chair, Pedestrian Working Group	Steve Hancock, Mesa
Michael Eagan, American Society of Landscape Architects	Chris Jacques, Peoria
Bruce Meyers, Arizona Department of Administration	Lorry Kuiper, Phoenix Planning Department
*Mark Mansfield, ADOT	*Mark Melnychenko, Phoenix Transit
*Mickey Ohland, Chandler	Kristina Fields, Phoenix
*Tami Ryall, Gilbert	Maureen Mageau-DeCindis, RPTA
Debbie Burdette, Glendale	*Amy MacAulay, Scottsdale
*Larry Martinez, Goodyear	Jorie Bresnahan, Scottsdale
	Eric Iwersen, Tempe

*Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Normand, Chandler	Marieke Reijalt, Scottsdale Resident
Dawn Coomer, MAG	Bill Way, Mesa
Michelle Green, RBF	Dennis Wells, RBF

1. Call to Order

Pat McDermott called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the February 22, 2000 Meeting Minutes of the Regional Bicycle Task Force and Pedestrian Working Group

Eric Iwersen moved to approve the meeting minutes from February 22, 2000. Reed Kempton seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Call to the Audience

Marieke Reijalt, a Scottsdale resident, introduced herself to the committees. She noted the importance creating safe routes for children to bicycle to school, and asked how the committee was involved in this effort.

4. Staff Report

Paul Ward provided a status report of bicycle projects. Seven projects will be carried forward to next year. Paul distributed a status report sheet of the programmed bicycle projects. He noted that jurisdictions can apply for advance design of bicycle projects. Paul noted that he could further describe the project development process at a future meeting, and the Chairman asked Paul to discuss this at a later meeting. He added that the project status report would be distributed to the committee quarterly and asked committee members to call him with any questions.

Dawn Coomer continued by stating that the next round of transportation enhancement funds would be beginning in several months. The application would be reviewed by the various COGs in April, and the projects would probably be due to MAG in July. Project would be due to ADOT in October, and the State Transportation Enhancement Review Committee will be meeting in November or December.

There were two public meetings for the West Valley Multi-Modal Transportation Corridor Plan which were well attended. MAG staff met with Maricopa County staff last week to discuss coordination of the ROSS plan. At the Regional Trails Forum to follow today's meeting, Bill Scalzo would provide an update of the Maricopa County Trails Commission. The Gila Bend project for the Pedestrian Design Assistance Program is complete, and the Laveen project and the Peoria project are progressing well. Finally, Dawn reminded the committees about the Walking and Bicycling into the 21st Century Conference Series on April 25 and 26, 2000.

5. Update on Transportation Review Committee Activities

This item was deferred due to the cancellation of the most recent TRC meeting.

6. Member Agency Report

Eric Iwersen mentioned that Tempe has a new bicycle map. He distributed some of the maps. Reed Kempton mentioned that there is a new bike web page on the MCDOT web site. The site can be reached at www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/bicycle/index.htm.

7. Regional Off-Street System (ROSS) Plan

At last month's meeting, several questions were asked by the Task Force and Working Group concerning the project scope of work. The scope was included with the agenda, and MAG staff reviewed the scope tasks and the status of the various tasks. After the presentation, Pat McDermott asked how the

prioritization of the corridors would be accomplished. Dawn responded that evaluation criteria would be drafted for the committee's review next month, and the prioritization would result in a hierarchical system of pathways. Several members of the committee expressed concern about the prioritization of projects, and noted that funding for bicycle projects, whether in the ROSS or not, should be maintained.

The consultant team then provided a presentation on the vision statement, goals and objectives. Members were given a draft map of potential corridors to include in the plan for review and comment. Michelle Green began by reviewing the vision statement, goals and objectives of the ROSS plan. She continued by explaining the approach to identifying the projects for inclusion in the plan. The MAG Region is quite large. The goal is to find opportunities to link origins and destinations. Destinations include employment, parks, colleges and universities. Origins can be identified by mapping residential density. Opportunities include waterways and desert greenbelts, canals, rail lines, and Flood Control District rights-of-way. Michelle added that utility information and flood control rights-of-way were not yet on the draft map.

Bill Way mentioned that he has shape files (ArcView) for utilities in Mesa. Pat McDermott asked if creating a model ordinance would be seen as an exaction. Eric Iwersen responded that it really depends on the size of the development and the community needs. Eric asked how the plan will identify grade separated crossings and methods to link pathways across arterials.

Bill Way added that developing railroads can be problematic since the railroads are unwilling to allow paths or trails along their right-of-way. Eric added that Tempe is purchasing an abandoned spur. He mentioned that their attorney said that condemnation can occur if there is sufficient right-of-way. Another option is to cross the railroad rather than go along it.

Maureen Mageau-DeCindis said that the Rio Salado need to be included on the map. Reed Kempton said that trails and pathways need to be distinguished on the map. Mike Normand asked if active and abandoned railroads could be differentiated on the map. The committee noted that the CAP should also be shown on the map. Reed added that the CAP is part of the County Trails System. The former Arizona Bicycle Task Force funded a study to determine what type of system would be appropriate along the CAP. The intergovernmental agreement still needing signatures from the Bureau of Reclamation and ADOT.

Eric suggested changing the vision statement to: "residents of the MAG region have safe, convenient access to an attractive, multi-use, non-motorized transportation system for local trips that provides a viable alternative to driving." He suggested also having a model ordinance for site design. Dawn noted that the Pedestrian Area Policies and Design Guidelines could be referenced in the Plan, and the committee agreed. Eric suggested adding this to the accessibility objectives.

Eric also suggested adding the issue of crossing streets to the connectivity objectives. The Pedestrian Design Assistance Study could be used as a model. Bill Way suggested that places to park and store bikes once reaching a destination is important. This could be added to the user-friendly objectives.

There was discussion of the model ordinance objective under the implementation goal. The committee suggested that the wording of this objective should reflect providing links to existing pathway segments. Also, requiring developers to fund pathways could be considered an exaction.

Mike Normand added that the Paseo project should be added to the map. Pat said that the entire canal system should be included on the map regardless of whether there are improvements constructed near them.

The committee discussed picking representative projects to address design and performance standard issues. Pat said he had a copy of a book exploring all of the canals in the Valley which he could share for information. Mike added that transit links should be considered in the plan.

8. Next Meeting

The Pedestrian Working Group and Regional Bicycle Task Force will be meeting on April 18, 2000 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.